

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Hirota (EP 0 691 517). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hirota teaches a unit type expansion valve that includes a valve casing (11) disposed to penetrate a high-pressure refrigerant passage (12) connected to the inlet of an evaporator and a low-pressure refrigerant passage (13) connected to the outlet of the evaporator (1) sideways, which is formed so that the inside diameter of the low-pressure refrigerant passage (13) is not smaller than the inside diameter of the high-pressure refrigerant passage (12). The unit type expansion valve also includes a unit (15) which is integrally composed of a thermo-sensitive chamber (20) for sensing any change in temperature of refrigerant in the low-pressure refrigerant passage (13) to raise or lower the pressure therein and a valve mechanism (30) for being driven by the raised/lowered pressure in the thermo-sensitive chamber (20) to open or close the high-pressure refrigerant channel (12), in which the unit (15) is inserted into the valve casing (11) from the side of the low-pressure refrigerant channel (13). The thermo-sensitive chamber (20) is disposed in the opening at the inlet of the valve casing (11) so that the opening is closed by the thermo-sensitive chamber (20) and that the unit (15) as a whole can be drawn out from the valve casing (11) by pulling the thermo-sensitive chamber portion outwardly.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to an expansion valve that includes a valve body, a first path formed inside the valve body through which high-pressure refrigerant flows, a valve chamber with a bottom formed inside the first path, a second path formed inside the valve body parallel to the first path, through which refrigerant flowing toward an evaporator flows, an orifice member including a throttle passage that communicates the valve chamber with the second path, the orifice member being press-fitted into the valve body, a valve member disposed facing the orifice member, a third path through which refrigerant exiting the evaporator flows, an actuating rod for operating the valve member, an actuating device for driving the actuating rod, an opening formed to the valve body that

communicates the third path with the actuating device and a guide member for slidably guiding the actuating rod with the guide member being press-fitted into an opening communicating the second path with the third path of the valve body. Claim 1 recites that the expansion valve includes a vibration insulating member disposed in the valve chamber and connected to the orifice member with the valve member in slidable contact with the vibration insulating member.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach a vibration insulating member disposed in the valve chamber and connected to the orifice member with the valve member in slidable contact with the vibration insulating member. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

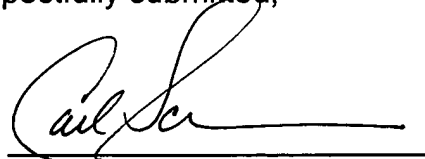
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 4-6 also include features not shown in the applied art.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 13, 2004

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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